## Single Business Tax Plan Testimony

From:

Linda Jolicoeur

Target Equipment Leasing, Inc.

28535 Orchard Lake Rd., Suite 300

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

Thank you Madame Chair and members of the joint Committee of the House and Senate Tax Committees. My name is Linda Jolicoeur and I own an equipment leasing company in Farmington Hills, Michigan. I like to refer to my business as a "Micro" business as opposed to a small business. I have only six employees and my sales are a little over a million dollars a year. That sounds like pretty good revenues for a "micro" business, however, as I lend money to other businesses for business equipment the profit margins are very small.

I am here because over the twenty years I have been in business I have made tax policy a high priority in my business activities. In the past I have chaired the tax policy committee for the Detroit Regional Chamber and currently chair the Tax Committee for the Small Business Association of Michigan. Some of you know I have been very active in trying to reform the way personal property taxes are collected and reported by leasing companies. In the past fifteen years we have made progress however I continue to think it is an unnecessary burden on the business community to have a third party collecting any kind of tax especially something as diverse and complicated as personal property tax. Though we no longer have to bill and collect the tax if we have less than 30 employees, we continue to have to report equipment and ft's location every January. During the months of December and January that is virtually all my staff does and not only does it effect sales in those months but this is property that is

already being reported by the individual companies. This requirement by the state is one that falls only on leasing companies, not banks, not finance companies and not credit unions. This begs the question so why make leasing companies do this?

My purpose today is not to discuss personal property tax on its own but in the context of the Governor's new restructuring of the Single Business Tax. When this onerous tax was created in the mid-70's small businesses were not at the table. I will compliment the Governor for inviting us to participate this time and for moving the process forward

I think that she has proposed some good ideas in reduction of the SBT rate and the credit for manufactures for personal property tax. I like the PPT credit for manufacturing but I continue to believe that all businesses need a credit to grow. I believe where small businesses part with the Governor is that all businesses are not treated fairly in the legislation and the bills are needlessly complicated.

Many times I have heard the phrase "Tax Policy creates winners & losers". Why? I have here a copy of the Illinois Business Tax Return. My friends it is two pages long and consists of a two part 7.3% income tax rate. No magic, no complicated measures, no need to have three CPA's try to figure out what you owe. Historically small business has disliked the SBT because it is too complicate, costly, and hits a business when it can least afford the tax. My own business has paid more SBT since 9/11 then I paid in the previous 16 years. There is something wrong with a system that hits you when you're down.

If we are to embark on this mission of tax reform and I hope we do, then lets start with the premise that the Single Business Tax cannot be reformed, repaired, or remodeled, it must be replaced with a simple, easy and fair tax that all businesses can understand. A simple income tax would be great, but I can't go along with triple weighting profits.

Many have said small business is the engine that moves the economy then why not a plan that encourages the creation of jobs and a "friendly" business environment, one that does not punish employers for providing health care.

We have an extraordinary opportunity to design a tax system that makes us the envy of this wonderful country. A system that takes into consideration our competing states and how Michigan Businesses can run profitable, growing businesses in business sectors that did not exist in the 70's; a system that encourage these small high-tech and research businesses, service businesses of all kinds.

I still believe that Michigan has the best and the brightest workers, I believe we have wonderful, committed individuals in government. This is the time for diplomacy, for reaching out and agreeing on the things we can agree on, that Michigan needs jobs, employers need tax relief, the state needs revenues to run essential services, let's keep the process moving and create a tax system that supports healthy businesses that can create those much needed jobs.

Thank you,

Linda Jolicoeur

## Illinois Department of Revenue 2004 Form IL-1120

## Corporation Income and Replacement Tax Return

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Part III — Rasa income or land III		
Part III — Base income or loss allocable to Illinois		
Complete Part III only if any portion of your base Income or loss is de   1 Write your base income or loss from Part I, Line 7	erived outside Illinois.	
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=Note→If you are making the business income election, chec	:	
this box and write zero on Part III, Line 2a and Line 7. (See inst		
2 a Nonbusiness income or loss included in Part III, Line 1.(Atta b Business income or loss from page units agent).	chSchedule NB.) 2a	
b Business income or loss from non-unitary partnerships, trust included in Part III, Line 1. (See instructions.)	s, and estates	
3 Add Lines 2a and 2b. This is the total of your subtractions.	2b	
4 Subtract Line 3 from Line 1. This is userable.	3	
Subtract Line 3 from Line 1. This is your business income or loss     Business income apportionment formula (from the formula).	4	
5 Business income apportionment formula. (Insurance companies companies (T) check the appropriate box and see Special Appropriate box.	(I), financial organizations (F), and transportation	
companies (T) check the appropriate box and see Special Appo a Total sales everywhere (cannot be negative)	Ittionment Formulas instr ) 🔲 [ ] F 🗍 T	
b Total sales within Illinois (cannot be negative)	5a	
C Divide Line 5b by Line 5a. (Carry to six decimal places.)	5b	
This is your apportionment factor.		
6 Multiply Line 4 by Line 5c This is your business income or loss at Nonbusiness income or loss allocable to this is 400 to 100.	5c	
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7 Nonbusiness income or loss allocable to Illinois. (Attach Sch. NB.) I 8 Business income or loss apportionable to Illinois from non-unitary	f you checked the box on Line 2a, write zero here. 7	***************************************
Business income or loss apportionable to Illinois from non-unitary Add Lines 6 through 8. This is your base income or net loss alloca	partnerships, trusts, and estates. (See instr.) 8	
9 Add Lines 6 through 8. This is your base income or net loss allocal	ble to Illinois. Write here and on Part IV, Line 1. 9	
Part IV — Net income and replacement tax		
1 Write your base income or loss from Part III. Line 0. if a u.f. Line		
<ul> <li>Write your base income or loss from Part III, Line 9, if applicable;</li> <li>Illinois net loss deduction (NLD) (Attach Schadule NLD) (Attach Schadule NLD)</li> </ul>	otherwise from Part I, Line 7.	0.00
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Write the total amount here and on Part V, Line 1.	r net income after NLD.	
a Multiply Line 3 by 2.5% (.025). This is your replacement tax.	3	0.00
b Recapture of investment credits from Schedule 4255. (See Insti	<b>4a</b> 0.00	
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6 Investment credits from Form IL-477. (Attach Form IL-477. See ins	estment credits. 5	0.00
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Write here and on Part II, Line 1.	net replacement tax.	-
	7	0.00
Part V — Income tax		
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2 a Multiply Line 1 by 4.8% (.048). This is your income to:	1	0.00
b Recapture of Investment credits from Schedule 4255 (See instance)	2a 0.00	
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The voice your total income tax credits from Schedule 1200 D. (Attack of	Chedulo 1200 D.)	0.00
The second of th	ax Credit from	
Ochodale 1299-D.	_	
b Write the amount of your High Impact Business Investment Credi	t from	
ochedule 1299-D.		
c Write the amount of your EDGE Tax Credit from Schedule 1299-E	4b	
5 Subtract Line 4 from Line 3 (cannot be less than zero). This is your net	D. 4c	
7. (1)	medine tax: vviite here and on Part II, Line 2. 5	0.00
PartVI —This information must be completed by all taxpayers		
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principally directed or managed. State:		
3 Write the city and state where your corporation's accounting	Write the new owner's name:	
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